Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1596 - March 14, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1596 with a release date of Friday, March 14th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The U-S championship Amateur Radio Direction Finding games are set for May in Texas, a former Novice is fined $4300 and

a look back at ham radio taking to space on a commercial communications satellite. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1596
coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIOSPORTS: THE USA ARDF CHAMPIONSHIP IN TEXAS IN MAY

Hidden transmitter hunters from across the nation are making plans to visit

Texas in May. This, with hopes of going to Korea in the Fall. And its all

in the name of radiosports. Newsline's Joe Moell K0OV tells us why. K0OV report:

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Registration is now open for the biggest annual on-foot transmitter hunting

event in the Western Hemisphere. The Eighth USA ARDF Championships take place Thursday, May 8 through Saturday, May 10 at Bastrop State Park near Austin, Texas. The best radio-orienteers in the USA will be there, but the

courses will also be open to anyone, from any nation, at any radio foxhunting skill level. There will be practice sessions, a big two-meter hunt and another hunt on 80 meters, following standard international rules.

Excellent maps by the Houston Orienteering Club will be given to competitors before they set out on the course. Deer, raccoon and armadillo

make their home among the tall pines in this park, as well as over 250 bird

species.

National ARDF Championships are for individuals only. No teaming or assistance on the course is permitted. If you're a senior, don't worry about trying to compete against teenagers. Equal medals will be awarded in

five separate
age categories for OM's from under 18 to over 60. There are four similar age categories for the YLs.

Anyone with reasonable physical abilities can participate. You must be able

to run or walk through the forest and carry your DF gear for five to ten kilometers. You might win a medal, and maybe even a spot on Team USA, which

will be traveling to South Korea for the World championships in September.

We can only send a maximum of three people in each age category to Korea, so our national championships determine who gets the invitations.

For everything you need to know about the USA Championships, including schedules and registration forms, point your Web browser to the official site, _www.TexasARDF.org_ (http://www.TexasARDF.org) . That's TexasARDF.org. For a jump-start into the sport of ARDF, with equipment ideas and news of the World
Championships in Korea, go to _www.homingin.com_ (http://www.homingin.com)

, that's homingin.com.

From southern California, this Joe Moell, K0OV, for Amateur Radio Newsline.

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As far back as the earliest days of Amateur Radio, direction finding has been a part of the hobby. And one can only wonder what the earliest T-hunters would say if they were here now to see the way in which their favorite past time has matured into an international radiosport. (K0OV)

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RADIO LAW: GRAND TERRACE CA AGREES TO REDRAFT PROPOSED ANTENNA ORDENANCE

You cant call this a win yet, but it could wind up being one in the near future. This as the city of Grand Terrace, California, agrees to re-draft

a controversial proposed antenna ordinance that hams Say could take them off the air.

According to an e-mail bulletin to all ARRL members in the Southwestern Division, Grand Terrace, which is located in San Bernardino County, held a

hearing regarding proposed antenna restrictions on Tuesday evening, March 11th. In response to a letter from Volunteer Counsel, Len Shafer, WA6QHD,

the city did make a few technical changes to the wording of the proposed ordinance. Unfortunately, most of the undesirable proposed limitations remained as originally written.

A dozen or so local hams including ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director

Marty Woll, N6VI, and Orange Section Manager Carl Gardenias, WU6D, attended

the hearing. The amateurs explained the adverse impact of the proposed limitations, the likelihood of frequent and contentious appeals, and possible litigation, the city council.

After hearing the testimony the council members unanimously agreed to a suggestion from Woll that the ordinance be redrafted by a working group

that will now include ham radio operators on the panel. No timetable fore

the work to be completed was announced. (SW Division News Release)

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HAM NUMBERS: GERMANY SAYS ITS HAM RADIO COMMUNITY GROWING

Some good news from overseas. Ham radio continues to grow in Germany.

That nations national society the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club or DARC, says that recent figures show that the overall number of amateur radio callsigns rose from 80,496 in 2006 to 80,927 in 2007.

But the news was not as good for the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club itself. It says that within the same period of time its membership fell from 45,308 to 44,246.

All in all, 75,262 personal amateur radio calls were registered in Germany

throughout 2007. (Deutscher Amateur Radio Club)

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RESCUE RADIO: D-STAR TO SHINE AT GAREC 08

D-Star will be a prominent player at the upcoming Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference, Also known by the acronym GAREC 0h 8, the event will take place June 26, and 27 in Friedrichshafen, Germany. This, in conjunction with German national HamRadio convention and

exposition.

GAREC-08 will focus on the co-operation among I-A-R-U member societies and

with specialized groups working on emergency communications in the Amateur

Radio Service. Among the items on the program is a session titled 'D-Star

an Advanced Technology in Emergency Communications. The preliminary program for conference can be seen at www.iaru.org/emergency/GAREC2008Program.pdf (Southgate)

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RESCUE RADIO: CT DRILL BECOMES REAL LIFE DRAMA

Ham radio was part of a recent American Red Cross exercise held by the Mid-Fairfield County Chapter in Connecticut that became a real life emergency operation. The original purpose of the planned operation was to

familiarize non ham members of the local Disaster Action Team members with

the territory serviced by the chapter. Also to gain experience in the use

of GPS to navigate to a destination; learn about the use of radio during a

deployment; and compare the operation of VHF/UHF amateur radio gear and Red

Cross 47.420 MHz radios.

The plan was to deploy five Red Cross vehicles to different destinations within the ten served communities covering over 200 square miles. Each vehicle would have a ham operator carrying a handheld VHF/UHF radio. Four

of the vehicles would have a permanently installed Red Cross 47.420 MHz radio. In order to gain experience, only non-hams were to operate the Red Cross radios. A base station would be situated at the Bridgeport chapter house. The Greater Bridgeport ARC supported the Red Cross with nine fully

qualified and trained Red Cross volunteers.

Just minutes prior to the scheduled start a real incident occurred and the

volunteers responded. It was a fire emergency o the Red Cross Disaster Action Teams were activated. During the emergency radio amateurs were the communications link for the Red Cross which provided canteen supplies, office supplies and water.

Radio contact using the 47.420 MHz frequency was not possible once the vehicles were on scene at the incident site. Amateur radio performed flawlessly using repeaters in Bridgeport and Fairfield. The variety of available repeater locations and their antenna height provided the capability to virtually eliminate communications problems due to terrain or

structural interference. (WE1M)

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BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the K9OQO repeater serving Appleton, Wisconsin

(5 sec pause here)

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WITH NEWSLINE: LATEST WEB SUPER SUPPORTER ABNNOUNCED

We at Amateur Radio Newsline are happy to announce our latest web super supporter. Our support fund Administrator Andy Jaremea, N6TCQ, has words as to whom it is:

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The month of February 2008 saw another of our promotions for our web Super

Supporters. This time for an MFJ 2 meter FM monitor receiver to be awarded

to the individual or club donating the most to Amateur Radio Newsline during February.

A longtime supporter of Newsline is the Reading Amateur Radio Club in Pennsylvania, W3BN, and we are pleased to be sending their promotional award out to them in the next week or so. One of the things this club has

the right to be proud of is that their original ARRL charter was signed by

none other than Hirim Percy Maxim.

If you did not receive this support information you need to get on the Newsline Yahoogroups distribution list. Just go to Yahoogroups.com and sign up there. Information on donations I on our website.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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Our thanks to all of you who support the Amateur Radio Newsline. Its you who make these weekly newscast possible. (ARNewsline(tm))

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ENFORCEMENT: ANOTHER HAM WARNED TO STAY OFF CERTAIN REPEATERS

A Maine radio amateur has been warned by the FCC to stay off certain repeaters or face enforcement action against her license. Receiving the Warning Notice from the FCC's Spectrum Enforcement Division is Amanda Spenlinhauer, KB1CQX, of the town of Wells. In it the FCC states that she must refrain from using any repeater where the trustee says to stay off. The FCC also told to Spenlinhauer that her Amateur Radio license

expires in June. It advises her that it will not be routinely renewed unless this matter is resolved. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES FORMER NOVICE $4300

The FCC has levied a fine against a former ham who operated after his ticket had expired. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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On March 6, the FCC announced that it has issued a Forfeiture Order in the

amount of $4300 to Ronald Mondgock, the ex-KA3OMZ, of Honeybrook, Pennsylvania, for operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies

of 439.850 MHz and 147.560 MHz without an FCC issued license to do so.

While he was licensed, Mondgock, held only a Novice class ticket. He was issued his first Advisory Notice in February 2001 after he had been heard operating on the 75 meter band. He was told that he was not authorized to

use that portion of the spectrum and instructed to review the Commission's

rules relating to Amateur Radio Service frequencies.

In July 2004, Mondgock, received a Citation from the FCC's Philadelphia Field Office dealing with several alleged infractions including operating on a frequency not authorized for Novice Class license holders. He did not

reply as directed by the FCC and was issued a Warning Notice in November 2004. He was also told that his license that was scheduled to expire on December 14, 2005 would not be renewed until the matter is resolved.

In February 2006, the Commission sent Mondgock another letter telling him that his application for renewal of his Amateur Radio license could not be

routinely granted and has been referred to the Enforcement Bureau for review. This, because he had never submitted responses to the Commission's

correspondence and never claimed a letter sent via certified mail.

Mondgock was given 20 days to respond. He was also warned that if he chose not to do so that his application for renewal would be dismissed and

a Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture will be issued against him.

Apparently Mondgock chose to let his license lapse but he did not go away. It fell into the two year grace period where a ham can renew without

taking a test but cannot legally operate. So it was in December 2006, the

FCC's Field Office in Philadelphia sent Mondgock another Letter of Inquiry. This time to as part of its investigation of allegations of Mondgock operating his Amateur Radio Service station on the frequencies 147.560 MHz and 439.850 MHz. Again no response so on August 15, 2007, the

Commission's Philadelphia Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $10,000 for unlicensed operation

to Mondgock.

This time Mondgock did write back. In his response he did not deny the FCC's findings. Instead he asked for a cancellation of the proposed fine based on his inability to pay. He also supplied the financial documentation that the FCC said that it required.

After examining Mondgock's financial records the Commission declined to cancel the forfeiture. It did however recognize the financial hardship that a $10,000 fine would cause and reduced the amount to $4300.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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Mondgock was given the usual 30 days to pay or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED BROADCASTING BRINGS $10000 FINE

The FCC has affirmed a $10,000 monetary forfeiture or fine issued to Pennsylvania resident Michael Stone Campbell. This, for allegedly operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 97.7 MHz in the

Philadelphia area.

Back on October 2, 2007, the Commission's Philadelphia Field Office issued

the Notice of Apparent Liability to Campbell. Although Campbell never filed a response he did submit a letter to Senator Arlen Specter, which was

forwarded to the Commission on December 26, 2007. In his letter to Senator

Specter, Campbell claims that the FCC lost his construction permit application, but he never has provided any evidence that he submitted such

an application to begin with. Moreover, even if Campbell had provided such

evidence, the mere filing of an application would not have provided Campbell any authority to operate a radio station.

Based on the information before it the Commission has now affirmed the $10,000 forfeiture. Campbell was given the usual 30 days to pay up or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: TWINS ARRESTED IN CA COPPER THEFT

A first break in the cases of the ongoing copper thefts that have been plaguing telecommunications providers ion the South-West. This with word that twin brothers and a juvenile have been arrested in connection with a series of thefts of copper wire in California. Jim Damron, N8TMW, has more:

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An under cover investigation by the city of Lancaster's Sheriff's Station began after a report was filed by Verizon that $40,000 worth of copper wire

had been stolen.   The investigation in a sparsely populated area lasted nearly 50 hours. Three suspects were taken into custody who were linked to

four thefts of copper from Verizon over two weeks.

The suspects reportedly climbed utility poles to cut the wire down and it was taken to recycling facilities where it was sold for between $1.80 and $2.50 a pound. Authorities a believe that the three suspects may be linked

to at least a dozen similar thefts cross the region.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, reporting.

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With the price of copper soaring due to demand in overseas markets the theft of wire especially the south-west has become a major issue here in the United StatesIts also one of the reasons you are paying o much for coax

and rotor cable these days. (Published reports)

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HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: THREE NEW HAM RADIO ONLY WEBSITES

Several of what can best be described as ham radio clones of existing Internet services have sprung up in recent weeks. First up www dot cqoogle

dot com which calls itself a ham radio specific search engine. Its really

sharp at pulling up and grouping ham radio only information and is far better than its general purpose namesake. This one is a winner from the get-go.

Also now on-line is a ham radio dedicated video sharing site calling itself

www dot cqtube dot com. Its kind of like a youtube where hams can hare videos but that in itself may be why it has only a handful of videos uploaded to it so far. It appear as if most hams who go to the trouble of

producing a video are targeting those outside of the hobby and that's
 where
the more general purpose youtube dot com truly excels.

Both cqoogle and cqtube are registered to Justin Johnson, G0KSC in Essex, in the United Kingdom who also operates the eBay-like www dot hambid dot com. Johnson described as the Managing Director of Telco Consultants Limited. That company has already seen success with online business in the

such as its A1isp operation and now seems to be extending it's business plan into Amateur Radio. (ARNewsline(tm))

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA TEXAS EVENT 2008

The Second Annual Radio Club of America Texas Event will be held Tuesday, April 29, 2008 in Galveston at the San Luis Resort & Convention Center. This, in conjunction with the Texas APCO State Conference.

Craig M. Jorgensen will be the keynote speaker for this year's Texas Event.

Jorgensen is project director and co-chair of APCO Project 2534, chair of the Project MESA Steering Committee, and a member of the boards of directors of the Radio Club of America and the Public Safety Spectrum Trust. Long associated with standards-development for digital radio communications, Jorgensen is a past president of the Associated Public-Safety Communications Officials International and of the National

Association of State Telecommunications Directors.

For more information contact The Radio Club of America, c/o Carroll Hollingsworth, PO Box 5680, Lago Vista, Texas 78645 or by e-mail to dhlago

at aol dot com

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: EASTERN VHF - UHF CONFERENCE IN CT

And the 34th Annual Eastern VHF-UHF Conference will be held on April 18th to the 20th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Enfield, Connecticut. In addition to speakers the gathering will feature an indoor auction to help defray costs of future conferences. An outdoor Flea Market is planned for Sunday April 20th, weather permitting. More information and a registration

form is on line at www.newsvhf.com. (Eastern VHF-UHF Conference)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States

of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from

our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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CHANGING OF THE GUARD: HARVEY HETLAND N6MM KILLED IN HIT AND RUN ACCIDENT

Longtime Pasadena City College professor Harvey Hetland, N6MM, was killed Wednesday, March 5th in what authorities are calling a hit-and-run

cycling accident in a Los Angeles suburb.

According to a reports in the Star News newspaper and the Westside Bikeside

newsletter, Hetland and a companion cycleist were on their way home after riding up to the town of Montrose. They were descending La Tuna Canyon Road in near-by Sunland where N6MM was passed on his right by an automobile. Hetland swerved the bike into the center of the road and fell

over, got up for a moment, and then collapsed. An exact cause of death has

yet to be determined.

First licensed in 1960, and an Extra class license holder since 1964, Hetland was a member of the DXCC Honor Roll and was certified as a 35 word

per minute Morse operator. He had retired from Pasadena City College in

2007 where had spent 32 years teaching various courses including electronics and applied algebra.

Authorities are still looking for the car and its driver involved in the accident. Funeral services for Harvey Hetland, N6MM, were scheduled for Thursday, March 13, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, California. He was age 65. (Star News, Westside Bikeside, K0OV)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: VISUALLY HANDICAPPED EMMCOMS SYSTEM DEVELOPED

Turning to the new technology page, researchers at Georgia Tech's Wireless

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center say that they have received good

news. This, regarding initial testing of their newly developed Wireless Emergency Communications or W-E-C project for the visually handicapped. Results indicate that 94 percent of blind and visually impaired test subjects found W-E-C to be a significant improvement over their current methods of receiving emergency alerts.

This first field test involved participants from the Georgia Radio Reading

Service in a full-day study to engage the effectiveness and accessibility of this prototype emergency alerting system. Subjects ranged from sight-enhanced individuals to those who are fully blind. Additionally, the

test subjects' level of familiarity and use of wireless technologies ranged

from technically savvy to infrequent users.

WEC tested custom software that runs on a Windows Mobile OS, designed to send accessible emergency alerts to short message service capable handsets. The custom software then presented the content of the text alert

in an audio format. During the test engineers simulated the emergency alerts, employing the Common Alerting Protocol, as if they originated from

the National Weather Service. The mobile phones used had the capability to

recognize an incoming alert of critical importance and override any muted sound or vibration settings to ensure that the critical alarm was delivered.

Some 18 percent of Americans are thought to have some type of disability, and that an estimated 60 percent of Americans use wireless services. The advantage of accessible emergency communications software and devices like

this is that they can reach the user, no matter what their activity or location, with lifesaving information. Once fully functional, it could also assist blind hams involved in Emergency Communications work as well. (KC9RP)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: W1YU D-STAR REPEATER OPS PAGE

Some names in the news. First is Tim Mik, WY1U, in Connecticut, who has created a web page that enables anyone to view activity on a particular D-STAR repeater. All you need to do is select a geographic area, select a

repeater and go click to see whose on the air and who recently has been.

The page is for now centered on U-S operations. As such it only includes

a few of the D-Star repeaters that are available in the other parts of the

world. You can view this new service to D-Star users and those interested

in this emerging mode at
http://home.comcast.net/~timmik/dstarsearch.html (Southgate)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: NEIL PATEL NOMINATED TO HEAD NTIA

The White House has nominated Neil Patel to head the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, better known as the NTIA.

Patel has been assistant secretary for domestic and economic policy to Vice

President Cheney. Before that, he was staff secretary to the vice president

and is former general counsel at UUNET Technologies.

The NTIA is the President's principal adviser on telecommunications and information policy.. Meredith Atwell Baker has been heading the program as

acting NTIA chief. she is leaving the agency, but has not publicly given a

timetable for her departure. Patel must be confirmed by the Senate. (RW)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISS TRAINING PLANNED FOR THREE NEW ASTRO-HAMS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station training sessions are being planned for astronauts Nicole Stott, KE5GJN, Sandy Magnus, KE5FYE, and Bob Thirsk, VA3CSA. Magnus is expected to be a crewmember of Expedition 17 and 18, flying to the ISS on STS-126 in September.   Stott, a

member of the Expedition 19 crew, will fly on STS-128 in May 2009. Thirsk,

a CSA astronaut, will follow the same month on a Soyuz flight.   (ANS)

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WORELDBEAT - NEW ZEALAND: NZART CLOSES MEMBERSHIP E-MAIL REFLECTORS TO AVOID LITIGATION

The national society of New Zealand, the NZART has announced the closure of

its Internet reflectors.. This means that all remailers formerly open to

members are being permanently shit down.

The reason given in the Match 5th notice indicates that the action came about to keep the NZART from becoming embroiled in some future litigation. This, in case someone posted something another ham did not like and the matter went to court.

  The only NZART e-mail reflectors that will continue to operate are those

for internal use not open to the general membership. These include the Council only, HQ plus Council only, the Officers only and the ARE-C reflectors. All the other NZART sponsored reflectors closed indefinitely effective at 9 p.m. New Zealand time on Friday 7 March 2008. Only more proof that we live in a truly litigious world. (NZART)

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DX

In D-X word that F5LGE, is active portable FM from Martinique until March 30th. Listen out for him on 160 and 80 meters on CW. Operation seem to take place between 2330 to 0730 UTC. QSL via F5LGE, by the Bureau or direct. to Courgibet Rene, 13 Ruelle Crepion, 51240 ST Germain la Ville, France.

Also, BU2AI, is again active portable 9 from Matsu Island until March 20th. He operates as a mobile station from 1000 to 2300 UTC on low band CW

and SSB. QSL to his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

W6ALC will be in China for three weeks starting on March 17th. Red says that he has permission to operate from the contest station B7P. He also plans to visit the new club station BY7OK in Foshan. QSL as he directs you

on the air.

And WA2YUN is currently on a work assignment on Wake Island operating portable KH9 as time permits. QSL this operation via K2PF.

Above from various DX news sources

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THAT FINAL ITEM: AUSAT - THE HAM RADIO SATELLITE LINK

And finally this week, the story of ham radio taking to space on a commercial communications satellite. It happened a few years ago down-under. WIA- Newsman Jim Linton, VK3PC, takes on a trip back in time:

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Recent news that AMSAT-North America had struck a deal with IntelSat to put

an amateur satellite in geosynchronous orbit has rekindled memories of when VK and ZL radio amateurs had such a satellite.

In the early 1990s Australia's satellite company Aussat opened access to a spare transponder on one of its three its geostationary satellites, primarily for use during the Jamboree on The Air.

The Aussat link was normally established a week prior to JOTA for testing and for the general amateur community to use.

It was accessible through various amateur repeaters across Australia and the national UHF linked repeater system in New Zealand. There was also the capability to transmit to all points the annual JOTA opening broadcast.

The Westlakes Amateur Radio Club VK2ATZ north of Sydney also used Aussat for amateur television transmission.

The transmission was downlinked by Peter Cossins VK3BFG who rebroadcast it across Melbourne via the ATV repeater VK3RTV.

A proposed system called AMLINK, or Amateur Link, was conceived which sought to permanently link a network of 70cm repeaters in Australian capital cities through Aussat.

Approval was granted, a prototype interface unit developed and tested, then news came through that a replacement Aussat satellite had suffered a launch failure.

Changing government telecommunications policy ultimately rescinded approval for the AMLINK project, and sadly the geostationary satellite era for radio hams down under came to an end.

I'm Jim Linton VK3PC and you're listening to the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Thanks Jim. (WIA News, VK3PC)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio

Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can

also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box
 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed
radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is

eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line
nominating forms are in cyberspace at www dot YHOTY dot org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis,

W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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